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HOUSE BILL 391

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CREATING THE TECHNOLOGY
ENHANCEMENT FUND; PROVIDING MATCHING FUNDS TO RESEARCH
UNIVERSITIES FOR INNOVATIVE APPLIED RESEARCH TO CREATE NEW
PRODUCTS AND PRODUCTION PROCESSES.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**Section 1. TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT FUND CREATED--
ALLOCATIONS--APPLICATION REVIEW PANELS. --**

**A. The "technology enhancement fund" is created in
the state treasury. The fund shall consist of appropriations,
income from investment of the fund, gifts, grants, donations
and bequests. Money in the fund shall not revert at the end of
any fiscal year. The fund shall be administered by the
commission on higher education. Money in the fund shall be
used to provide matching funds to state research universities**

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1 to support innovative applied research that advances knowledge
2 and creates new products and production processes in the fields
3 of agriculture, biotechnology, biomedicine energy, materials
4 science, microelectronics, water resources, aerospace,
5 telecommunications, manufacturing science and similar research
6 areas. Money from the fund shall be expended on warrants of
7 the secretary of finance and administration upon vouchers
8 signed by the executive director of the commission on higher
9 education or the executive director's authorized
10 representative.

11 B. Grants from the fund are available to state
12 research universities that are conducting collaborative
13 research with corporate and nonprofit organizations. A state
14 research university may apply for a grant from the fund in
15 accordance with rules promulgated by the commission on higher
16 education. Allocations from the fund shall be based on a
17 competitive process with applications reviewed by a panel of
18 scientific and business experts established by the commission.
19 The review panel shall judge proposals based on excellence in
20 research design and possible innovation in cross-disciplinary,
21 multi-campus and higher education-industry research
22 collaboration. The review panel may determine new research
23 areas.

24 C. To apply for a grant, a state research
25 university must have equal or greater matching funds for the

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proposal from sources other than the state.

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